

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DATE 1/15/2014

Committee Members Present: Paul DeFazio, Jeffrey Anderson, Kevin Powers, Larry Stern, Susan Dring, Heidi Krockta, Patrick Mosesso, Thom Freeman, Larry Thomas, John Chlebek

Members Absent: Tracey Metivier

Others Present: Ginny Coppola, Bob Cutler, Bob Worthley, Roger Hill, Bob Garber

Notes taken by: Kristin Meehan Papianou

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00PM by Paul DeFazio, Chairman.

7:00PM –Roger Hill and Bob Worthley, Water and Sewer Budget

Roger advised that there is a large increase in the water budget because we've got a new water treatment plant on line. He said that right now 6 out of 15 wells are on treatment plans and, over the next year they are looking to put 4 more wells on plans. He also talked about a new employee who is coming on to replace a retired employee.

Roger asked if there are any questions from the Ad Com. Heidi asked about the clothing allowance. Roger said that it's due in the contract. We buy safety gear, cold weather clothes and uniforms out of that allowance. Paul asked about the salary of the employee who left and the one who replaced him. The prior employee was maxed out at \$50,000 and the new position is at \$75,000 but he has a different license (T3 rather than T2) which impacts the level of salary. Discussion of licensing types and levels as well as educational requirements. Discussion of sewer charges including disposal of solid and household hazardous waste day. Discussion of Russell Disposal and that there are charges associated with their picking up the Town trash at certain buildings.

Discussion about the size of the system and the need for updated technology. Roger also discussed the need to have a hydraulic model of the system which will enable them to do better planning. Discussion of the monitoring that is done, particularly for manganese.

Larry Thomas said that last year Roger said that he thinks the total number to bring our water system up to speed was about \$80M and asked if that number has been updated. Roger said that they are working on it because they are about to do a 5 year CIP, but it's a big number. Heidi asked about the overtime budget for water and why flushing is overtime. Roger explained that they have to flush at night, and the union contract requires night hours to be paid as over time.

Larry Stern also questioned the salary and overtime numbers. Roger advised that, under certain circumstances, everyone is eligible for over time except the superintendent. Bob advised that this is better considered scheduled overtime. Roger clarified that most of the overtime is scheduled union overtime – the contract requires that they get paid a minimum of 4 hours regardless of how little time they work.

John asked about automation and when we might see that. Roger said that would be soon but there are certain functions (like the eBay tank) that must be staffed by a Town employee. Roger clarified that none of the water and sewer money comes from taxation. It all comes from rate payers. Still, it has to be voted at Town Meeting to be appropriated.

Discussion turned to street lights – Thom asked about what percentage of street lights do we have control over vs national grid? And is there a program to switch the lights from incandescent to LED? Roger said it's about 45% Town and 55% National Grid. He said some of the lights are also controlled by Verizon because they control the poles. The Selectmen have a policy that one out of three poles would have a light on them – except at intersections. Roger advised that the current plan is to switch over to solar power rather than wait for National Grid to put a program in place to switch the lights. Additional discussion of the plans related to solar power. No other questions on street lights.

7:40PM Moved to topic of Sewer (Bob Worthley left the meeting). We are moving toward the Intra Municipal Agreement (IMA). In response to a question from Heidi, Roger advised that we're still paying bonds on the expansion of the Mansfield treatment plant and a few other projects. Larry Stern asked if they've defined new connection costs yet. Roger said they are getting close. They are trying to fund the expansion not on the backs of existing rate payers but rather as expansion costs.

Paul asked about the salaries between Water and Sewer – how do they figure out how much each employee gets paid from which department. Roger advised that it's an historical average. No further questions on sewer.

Kevin Powers asked how long a brand new asphalt spreader lasts. Roger said they usually last about 25 years. Discussion of these items being moved to the CIP.

7:45PM Snow and ice discussion. They've declared an emergency so the Ad Com can advance the funds to cover any shortfalls. They are currently at the break-even point, so if we have any more snow we'll be going over budget. Discussion about liquid pre-treating. Roger prefers to only use liquids to make the salts more effective. Roger said it's very expensive.

Ad Com will need to vote additional funds, so that will need to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion turned to Highway, Tree and Park. Roger advised that there is an unnamed laborers position listed. It was unintended and has been removed. That salary line item of \$32,928 will come off the total. Larry Stern said that the public works budget alone is 8.5% higher than last year. Roger advised that

most of that was moved to the CIP. Paul DeFazio asked who they get for summer help. Roger advised that they usually get town kids who are home from college. He said that they use them over the holidays too which is good because some of the snow and ice removal that they have to do can't be done by machine (library, town hall, around the common). Larry Thomas asked about whether we're taking the full allotment of the meals tax money to put towards roads. Roger said no, not yet because initially they didn't know how much money they could count on. The first year most of the money (\$75,000) went to Mill Street. Last year it was up to \$195,000 and that was spent. Discussion of upcoming and potential projects. Larry Stern asked if the town road work is done as over time. Roger said that it's not. Discussion of different road maintenance methods and the costs associated with each.

Paul asked about tree work and commented that they've done a good job with it. Roger said that National Grid also did a good job with that work. Roger said that next week or so the new high bucket truck will come in. It has a 75 foot working height, so it gets up over the wires.

8:10PM Heidi asked about landfill line on the budget. Roger said it's for maintenance and monitoring of the two landfills. Patrick asked how the garages are heated. Roger said they have solar panels on the highway garage that supplies almost all of the power in the buildings, but the heat is gas in the garage. Larry Stern asked if we're going to see anything in terms of a request for DPW buildings. Roger said he's done his own cad design and that is going to be a separate article. He thinks it will be a request of between \$500,000 - \$600,000 and they would still be looking to bring the whole water department and the DPW into the building. No further questions.

8:20PM Paul asked for discussion of the minutes.

Motion to accept the minutes from 1/8/14 as amended brought by Larry Stern. Seconded by Larry Thomas.

Vote: 9-0-0

8:21PM Motion to Adjourn by Thom Freeman. Seconded by Larry Thomas.

Vote: 9-0-0

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting:

Vote:

Signature of Chairperson

Signature of Secretary